

THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method of communicating activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving at least one condition, at a first location, the at least one condition defining when an indication of media consumption activity is sent by the first location to a second location, via the communication network;

receiving a request for consumption of media of a second user at the second location, from a first user at the first location;

at the time of said receiving the request for consumption of media of the second user at the second location, from the first user at the first location, sending at least one indication of media consumption activity to the second user at the second location, via the communication network, if the at least one condition is met, to enable interaction of the first user and the second user during media consumption by the first user; and

refraining from sending at least one indication of media consumption activity to the second user at the second location, via the communication network, if the at least one condition is not met.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the first location and the second location are associated with one or more of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number (ESN).

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a

digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising: receiving an identifier identifying the second location; and the identifier comprising one or more of a legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one condition comprises one or more of a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one condition is received from a location remote from the first location, via the communication network.

11. (Previously presented) A method of communicating activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving at least one condition used to determine when a first user is notified, via the communication network, of the receipt at a first location of an indication of media consumption activity of a second user at a second location;

receiving, at the first location, at least one indication of consumption of media of the first user by the second user at the second location, from the second user at the second location;

at the time of receiving the at least one indication of consumption of media of the first user by the second user at the second location from the second user at the second location, notifying the first user, at the first location, of the receipt of the at least one indication of consumption of media of the first user by the second user at the second location, if the at least one condition is met, to enable interaction of the first user and the second user during media consumption by the second user; and

refraining from notifying the first user, at the first location, of the receipt of the at least one indication of consumption of media of the first user by the second user at the second location, if the at least one condition is not met.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein each of the first location and the second location are associated with one or more of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number (ESN).

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising: receiving an identifier identifying the second user at the second location; and the identifier comprising one or more of a legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one condition comprises one or more of a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the notifying comprises one or more of displaying an image, generating sound, and/or illuminating a light emitting diode representing the receipt of the at least one activity indication.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising: initiating, from the first location, an exchange of streaming media between the first location and the second location, if the at least one condition is met; and refraining from initiating, from the

first location, an exchange of streaming media between the first location and the second location, if the at least one condition is not met.

22. (Previously presented) A system supporting the communication of activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the system comprising:

a television display, at a first location, to support the consumption of media by a first user;

a storage, at the first location, communicatively coupled to the television display, and having an associated first network address;

set top box circuitry, at the first location, the set top box circuitry communicatively coupling the television display to the communication network;

at least one user defined identifier identifying a second user at a second location;

at least one user defined condition for notifying the first user; and

software that receives, from the second user at the second location and via the communication network, at least one indication of consumption of media of the first user by the second user at the second location, and that responds by notifying the first user at the time of receipt of the at least one indication of consumption of media of the first user by the second user at the second location and if the at least one user defined condition is met to enable interaction of the first user and the second user during media consumption by the second user, and that refrains from notifying the first user if the at least one user defined condition is not met.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the associated first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, or an electronic serial number (ESN).

26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the at least one user defined identifier comprises one or more of legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

28. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the at least one user defined condition comprises a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being

accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and an artist.

29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

30. (Currently amended) A method of communicating activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving at least one condition from a first user at a first user location, the at least one condition defining when an indication of media consumption activity involving media of a second user is sent to the second user at a second user location by the first user location;

at the time of receiving a request for consumption of media of [[a]] the second user, ~~the second user at a second location,~~ from [[a]] the first user at [[a]] the first user location, sending, ~~at least one indication of consumption of media of the second user by the first user at the first location to the second user at the second location~~[[,]] via a communication network, at least one indication of consumption of media of the second user by the first user at the first user location, if the at least one condition ~~received from the first user at the first location and defining when an indication of media consumption activity is sent to the second user at the second location by the first location~~ is met, to enable interaction of the first user and the second user during media consumption by the first user; and

refraining from sending the at least one indication of media consumption activity from
the first user location to the second user location, if the at least one condition ~~received at the first~~
~~location and defining when the indication of media consumption activity is sent by the first~~
~~location to at least the second location~~ is not met at the time of receiving the request for
consumption of media of the second user from the first user.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein each of the first location and the second location are associated with one or more of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number (ESN).

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising: receiving an identifier identifying the first location; and the identifier comprising one or more of a legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the at least one condition comprises one or more of a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the at least one condition is received from a location remote from the second location, via the communication network.

40. (Previously presented) A system supporting the communication of activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the system comprising:

set top box circuitry at a first location of a first user; and

software that receives, from a second user at a second location and via a communication network, at least one indication of consumption of media of the first user by the second user at the second location, and that responds by notifying the first user at the first location at the time of receipt of the at least one indication of media consumption activity to enable interaction of the first user and the second user during media consumption by the second user, if at least one user defined condition for notifying the first user at the first location is met upon receiving a request for media consumption, and that refrains from notifying the first user at the first location if the at least one user defined condition for notifying the first user at the first location is not met.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

43. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a

digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

44. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.